

# The Crusades

## Prepare to Read

### Objectives

In this section you will

1. Learn about the causes of the Crusades.
2. Find out about the different Crusades and what they accomplished.
3. Discover the effects the Crusades had on life in Europe.

### Taking Notes

As you read this section, look for the ways various people or groups contributed to the Crusades. Copy the table below and record your findings in it.

Person or Group	Contribution

### Target Reading Skill

**Recognize Sequence Signal Words** Signal words point out relationships between ideas or events. This section discusses the Crusades, which took place over many years. To help keep the order of events clear, look for words such as *first*, *then*, *finally*, and *in [date]* that signal the order in which the events took place.

### Key Terms

- **Holy Land** (HOH lee land) *n.* Jerusalem and parts of the surrounding area where Jesus lived and taught
- **Crusades** (kroo SAYDZ) *n.* a series of military expeditions launched by Christian Europeans to win the Holy Land back from Muslim control
- **Jerusalem** (juh ROOZ uh lum) *n.* a city in the Holy Land, regarded as sacred by Christians, Muslims, and Jews
- **pilgrim** (PIL grum) *n.* a person who journeys to a sacred place

**O**n November 27, 1095, a crowd gathered in the town of Clermont, located in present-day France. They came to hear an urgent message from the pope:

**“You common people who have been miserable sinners, become soldiers of Christ! You nobles, do not [quarrel] with one another. Use your arms in a just war! Labor for everlasting reward.”**

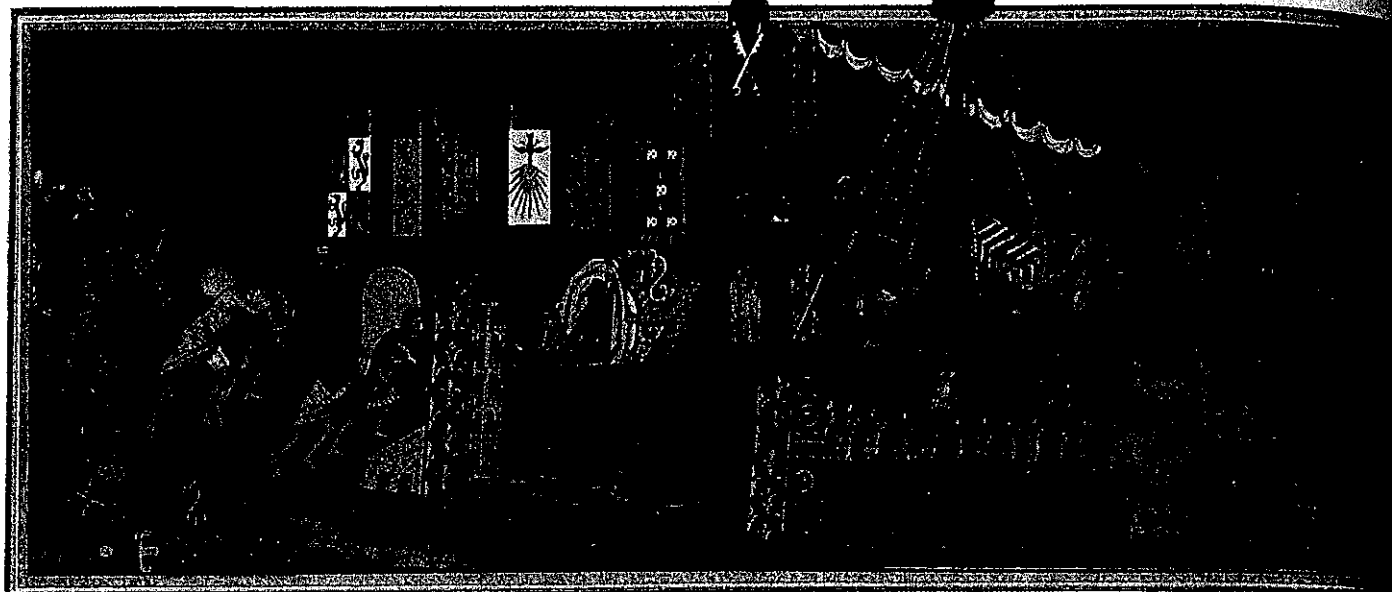
—Pope Urban II

The crowd roared its approval. They shouted, “God wills it!”

Pope Urban II was calling the people of Europe to war. The purpose of this war was to capture the Holy Land, a region sacred to Christians because Jesus had lived and taught there. It was a small region on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, in present-day Israel, Jordan, and Palestine. Now, said the pope, the Holy Land has fallen to an enemy. Christians must win it back.



**Pope Urban II calling for a crusade to the Holy Land**



### Embarking on a Crusade

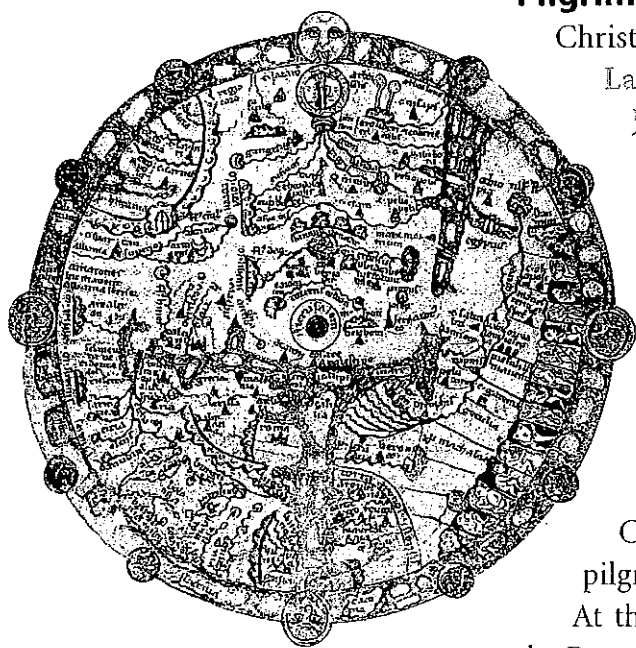
Huge armies of crusader knights sailed to the Holy Land.

**Conclude** What was involved in transporting these large armies?

## Causes of the Crusades

Over the next 200 years, the Church launched eight military expeditions, called the Crusades, to capture the Holy Land. The word comes from *crux*, the Latin word for “cross.” People who carried the Christian cross into battle against the non-Christian enemy were called crusaders.

**Pilgrims to the Holy Land** Since about A.D. 200, European Christians had been traveling to Jerusalem, a city in the Holy Land regarded as sacred by Christians, Muslims, and Jews. These people were pilgrims—people who journey to a sacred place. Nobles and peasants alike made the long and difficult journey. They wanted to visit the places written about in the Bible.



Many medieval Christians believed that Jerusalem was the center of the world, as this map from the 1200s shows.

**The Rise of the Turks** For centuries, Jerusalem had been controlled by Arab Muslims who generally welcomed Christian pilgrims. Then, in the 1000s, the Seljuk Turks (SEL jook turks) took control of the Holy Land. This Muslim group sometimes attacked the Christian pilgrims from Europe. Then they closed the pilgrimage routes to Jerusalem.

At the same time, the Turks were also conquering much of the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine emperor in Constantinople asked Pope Urban II to send knights to defend his Christian empire. The pope agreed and called on the people of Europe to fight the Muslim Turks.

**Why Go to War?** Why did Pope Urban II agree to organize a war against the Muslim Turks? Mainly, he wanted the Holy Land to be under the control of Christians. He wanted Christian pilgrims to be able to visit Jerusalem and other religious sites.

But he also had other reasons. The pope thought a crusade would unite Europeans against a common enemy—the Muslim Turks—and they would stop fighting among themselves. He also hoped to gain power and prestige for himself and the Church.

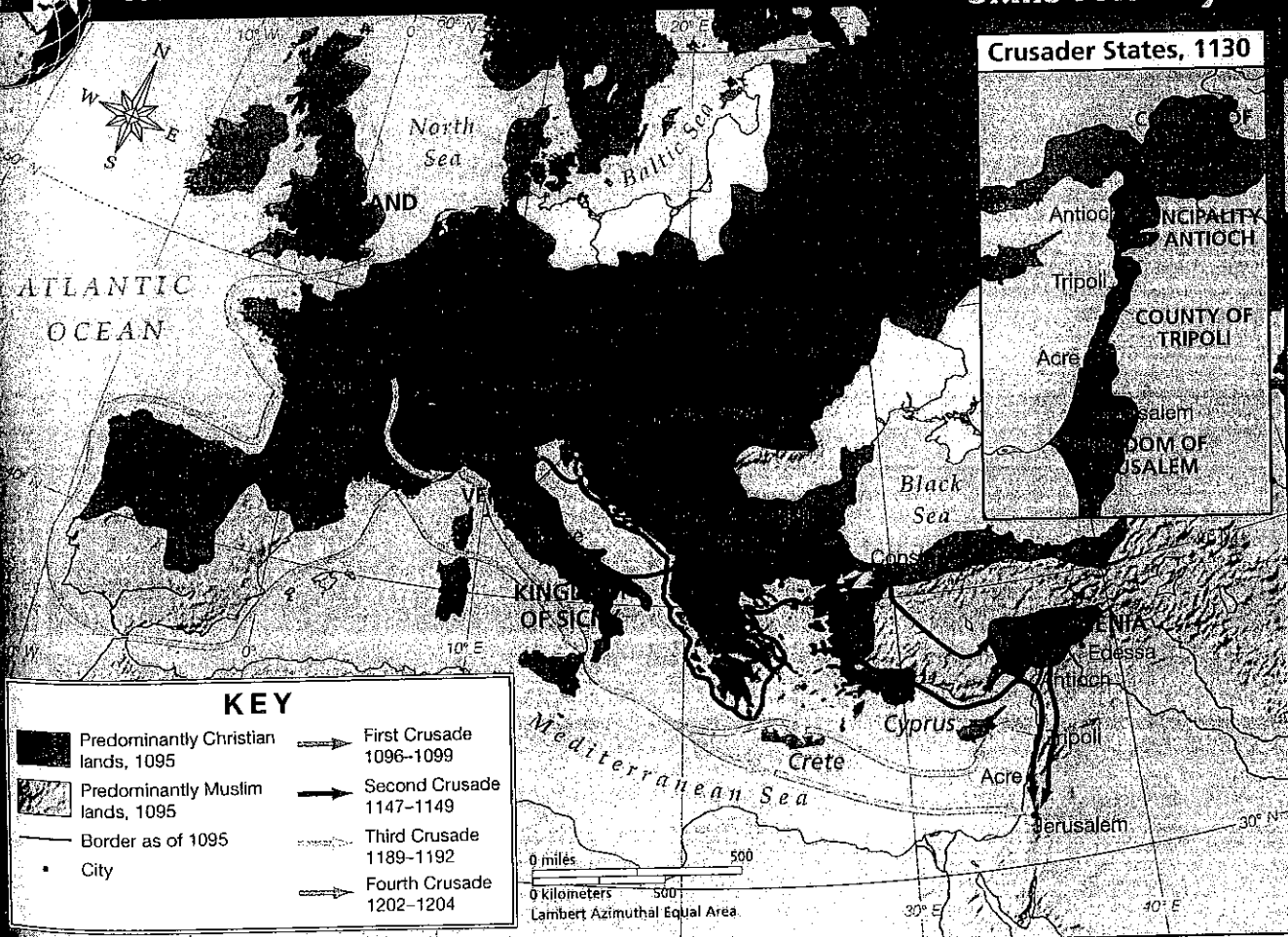
Some Europeans had other reasons for encouraging the Crusades. They wanted to control not only the Holy Land but also key trade routes between Africa, Asia, and Europe.

**✓ Reading Check** Why did the pope want to conquer the Holy Land?

## The Crusades

## MAP MASTER™ Skills Activity

Crusader States, 1130



**Movement** After the First Crusade, the crusaders set up four new states in the Holy Land, as shown on the inset map.

**Identify** In which Crusade did the crusaders travel mostly by sea? **Compare** Which do you think was a better choice: traveling by land or traveling by sea? Explain your answer.

**Go Online**

PHSchool.com Use Web Code  
lpg-8543 for step-by-step  
map skills practice.



### Recognize Sequence Signal Words

What word in the paragraph at the right signals sequence? How does this clue help you understand the next few paragraphs?

## A Series of Crusades

The pope's best hope for capturing the Holy Land rested with European lords and their knights. But before these armies could assemble, a band of common people set out for Jerusalem.

**Peter the Hermit and the People's Crusade** Peter, a small man who wore monk's robes, gathered an "army" of common people. They set out in 1096. When they got to Constantinople, the Byzantine emperor advised them to wait for help from an army of knights from Europe. Peter agreed, but his followers rebelled. His soldiers attacked the Turks, who easily defeated them. Only a small part of his army survived.



Crusaders led by Louis IX of France retake the city of Damietta, near Jerusalem.

**The First Crusade** At last, the European armies sent by Pope Urban II reached Constantinople. Joined by what remained of Peter's army, the knights fought their way to Jerusalem and captured it in 1099. While taking control of the city, the crusaders killed about 10,000 of its Muslim, Christian, and Jewish inhabitants.

After the capture of Jerusalem, most of the crusaders returned to Europe. Those who stayed in the Holy Land set up four Christian kingdoms. The Muslim Turks attacked these kingdoms repeatedly. European Christians then launched more Crusades to keep control of the region.

**Later Crusades** The Second Crusade had little success. Then a strong Arab Muslim leader rose to power. He was known to the Europeans as Saladin (SAL uh din). By 1187, Saladin had retaken Jerusalem. King Richard I of England tried to persuade Saladin to return the Holy City to the Christians. Saladin refused, saying,

“To us Jerusalem is as precious . . . as it is to you, because it is the place from where our Prophet [Muhammad] made his journey by night to heaven. . . . Do not dream that we will give it up to you.”

—Saladin

Even so, Saladin negotiated a treaty with King Richard. He agreed to reopen Jerusalem to Christian pilgrims.

✓ **Reading Check** Why did Saladin refuse to give up Jerusalem?

## The Results of the Crusades

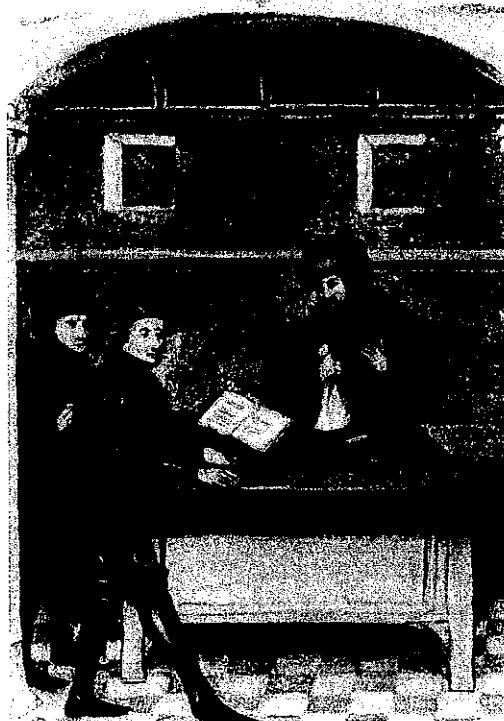
Although crusaders did capture the Holy Land for a while, they were never able to gain firm control of it. Still, the Crusades brought important and lasting changes to Europe.

**Increased Trade** The European ships that carried crusaders and their supplies to the Holy Land returned with rugs, jewelry, glass, and spices. Soon, these goods were in great demand in Europe. Thus, the Crusades helped revive trade, which in turn led to the growth of towns and cities.

The Crusades also encouraged the use of money in Europe. For much of the Middle Ages, most people bartered, or traded goods for other goods or for land or protection. But the crusaders went far from home, where they needed to *buy* supplies. In that case, it was easier to use money than it was to barter.

**New Ideas** Returning crusaders also brought new ideas and technology back to Europe. You have read about the advances made by Arabs in medicine, mathematics, and technology. The crusaders helped increase European knowledge of these techniques. Europeans learned how to make better ships and maps—skills that would help them become worldwide explorers.

**✓ Reading Check** Describe two effects of the Crusades.



### Medieval Banking

A man deposits gold in a bank.

**Synthesize** Why did banking increase after the Crusades?

## Section 3 Assessment

### Key Terms

Review the key terms at the beginning of this section. Use each term in a sentence that explains its meaning.

### Target Reading Skill

Reread the text on page 410 under the heading The Rise of the Turks. What signal words helped you understand the sequence of these events?

### Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. (a) **Find Main Ideas** What was the chief goal of the crusaders?

(b) **Infer** Why do you think Pope Urban II called the First Crusade a "just," or honorable, war?

2. (a) **Sequence** List the events of the First Crusade in order.

(b) **Identify Frame of Reference** How do you think European Christians viewed the Muslim Turks? How do you think Muslims living in the Holy Land viewed the crusaders?

3. (a) **Identify Effects** What were the main effects of the Crusades on life in Europe?

(b) **Predict** What might have happened in Europe if the Crusades had never taken place?

### Writing Activity

Suppose that there were European newspapers that published editorials at the time of the Crusades. Write an editorial either in support of or against the First Crusade.

**Writing Tip** Remember that editorials are persuasive writing. State your position. Then use reasons and facts to convince readers that your opinion is the right one.